



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference AFK 16447-WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP2003/013181	International filing date (day/month/year) 24 November 2003 (24.11.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 26 November 2002 (26.11.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B60R 22/34		
Applicant	AUTOLIV DEVELOPMENT AB	

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 June 2004 (18.06.2004)	Date of completion of this report 03 December 2004 (03.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, as originally filed
 pages , filed with the demand
 pages 3, 3a, 7, filed with the letter of 15 September 2004 (15.09.2004)

the claims:

pages 1-9, as originally filed
 pages , as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages , filed with the demand
 pages , filed with the letter of

the drawings:

pages 1/5-5/5, as originally filed
 pages , filed with the demand
 pages , filed with the letter of

the sequence listing part of the description:

pages , as originally filed
 pages , filed with the demand
 pages , filed with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. This report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: US 5 211 694 A

D2: FR 28 14 415 A

2. D1 is regarded as the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. D1 discloses a fixing device for a seat belt retractor that is to be fixed to a vehicle part by means of a holding member that is plastically deformable in its longitudinal direction and therefore serves as a shock absorber.

- 2.1 Furthermore, D2 discloses a fixing device for a seat belt retractor, said seat belt retractor being connected directly to the vehicle part. A spring is fixed between the seat belt retractor and the vehicle part so that the seat belt retractor is mounted in such a way that it can rotate when it overcomes a preset resistance. This results in a complex mounting system.

- 2.2 Thus the subject matter of claim 1 differs from the known fixing device in that the seat belt retractor

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is rotatable relative to the holding member when it overcomes a preset resistance, and the holding member is securely (i.e. not rotatably) connected to the vehicle.

2.3 The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

3. The problem to be solved by the present invention can therefore be considered that of preventing damage to the seat belt and the seat belt retractor in a seat belt that extends at an angle to the shaft axis and providing simple mounting of the seat belt retractor.

3.1 The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)):

The prior art (D1) suggests that the screw connection between the seat belt retractor and the vehicle part should be secure (i.e. not rotatable) because there is otherwise the danger that the seat belt retractor will detach from the vehicle part. Furthermore, it is not obvious to incorporate an extra part, i.e. the holding member, into the fixing device from D2.

4. Claims 2 to 19 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

5. Claims 1 to 19 are industrially applicable (PCT Article 33(4)).